

A Stick and a Stone

Story Summary

Join a group of friends as they go exploring on the way to their campsite. Reminiscent of *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* and *A Summery Saturday Morning*, *A Stick and a Stone* is simple and brilliant - and is sure to delight parents and children alike.

About the Author

Sarina Dickson is a writer, artist and educator. She has enjoyed a varied and creative working life, which has led to connections and collaborations with experts in publishing, mental health and wellness, education, illustration, printing, video production, public art, book design, disaster relief and tertiary research. Her writing has been highly commended in the Scribbles Creative Writing Awards. Sarina lives with a computer nerd, a social butterfly, a gamer, a human ray of sunshine and a very large rabbit. Sarina's other titles include 'Wishes and Worries', 'Rising Tide' and 'A Stick and a Stone'.

You can find Sarina on Instagram @Sarina_Dickson or Twitter @Sarina_Dickson_



About the Illustrator

Hilary Jean Tapper (Illustrator) Hilary Jean Tapper is a New Zealand based illustrator and arts therapist. She has drawn from the moment she first held a pencil and has aspired to illustrate for children's books since she was seven years old. Hilary's grandfather, Garth Tapper, was a New Zealand painter and Hilary was inspired by him from her earliest years to pursue her art. Hilary currently works with children using arts therapy, teaches heirloom dollmaking online, and illustrates for children's books. When she is not working, you'll find Hilary wandering the forests, reading, or drawing more little people!

You can find out more at www.hilaryjeantapper.com Connect with Hilary on Facebook and/or Instagram @hilaryjeantapper





Suggested Shared Reading Questions

- What do you predict the book will be about? Have you heard the phrase 'sticks and stones' before? What does it sometimes mean?
- Where could they be going?
- What are they carrying to get to where they're going?
- What is watching them as they walk? Can anyone name the bird? Has anyone seen one?
- Is the bird scared of them? Why not?
- What is a frond? What kind of plants have a frond? Can you make the shape of a frond with your hand? What is a fossil? Have you seen one?
- What do they have to do to get across safely?
- What makes a web? What does the kea want? Why might the kea want the hat?
- How does the child fall? Have you ever fallen in a puddle?
- Have you ever made mud soup? What would a warning cry sound like? Can you pretend to be a bird and show what a swoop would look like?
- What is foul play?
- Why are the children getting upset?
- How do they plan to get the hat back? What do you think they should do?
- Where do the kea live? Do you think this is a safe place for a bird to live? Why not?

Suggested Activities

Treasure Hunt

Using your school grounds or neighbourhood attempt to find as many items from the story as you can. Work in pairs, teams or the whole class. Use iPads or equivalent to take photos of each object you find. Use software such as seesaw to put all the photos in order as they appear in the story to make a slideshow to share.

Math-estimation

An adult kea usually weighs 1 kg. Using a few everyday objects ask the children to estimate which objects weigh the same as a kea. Using scaled test their estimates. Can they estimate what 3 or more kea (a group of kea is called a circus) would weigh. Some children might want to guess and test how 'kea' they weigh.

Writing Prompt-rhyme

Work together to make a word bank with rhyming words to describe the appearance, habitat and personality of kea. Practice as a group/class to write the first four lines of a poem. Ask the children to continue with the poem and share their work at the end. Early finishers might like to add artwork to their poem.



Suggested Activities cont.

Art-bark rubbings

A central theme of the story is the importance of leaving the natural habitat as we find it but we can still use the natural world for inspiration for our art. Give the children paper and different colour crayons. Lay the paper on interestingly textured rocks, bark and leaves and gently rub the crayon across the surface to create different patterns. Back in the classroom cut the paper into thin (approx. 2cm) strips and support the children to weave the strips across each other. You may wish to provide paper already printed with lines on the back to support the cutting.

STEM-Design a kea puzzle

Kea are remarkably smart and love to solve problems.

Watch this video from 2:40-6:40: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9WwBPSvJ04>

Ask the children to design a puzzle with a reward at the end for kea to solve. As a group/class decide what resources they can use for their puzzle and what reward would attract a kea (researchers often use butter or cheese) If time allows give the children the resources they need to make a prototype.

Te reo Māori kupu (source: www.maoridictionary.co.nz)

Stick	rākau
Stone	pōhatu
Feather	huru
Bone	poroiwi
Camping	pūpahi
Family	whānau
Friend	hoa
Hat	pōtae

Further information about kea and their conservation

- <https://www.keaconservation.co.nz/>
- Ajax the Kea Conservation Dog: A Working Dog's Life in the High Country by Mosen, Corey (a useful video to watch prior to reading the story to introduce the remarkable kea): <https://vimeo.com/229067450?fbclid=IwARlBEASL6yMHiGGeU9cgIi2LA59gALKLzYtFLM383cGx2dVYgehfaGz8g>
- Kea, the world's smartest parrot: <https://vimeo.com/351852567>

